

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The non-final Office Action of June 19, 2002 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 12-20 are currently pending. Figure 2 has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Terasaka et al. (US Patent No. 6,335,492). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 12 is allowable at least for the reason that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including forming a first layer above the substrate to cover at least a portion of the substrate, wherein the first layer exposes the pad of the each line and defines at least one opening near the pad, the opening having a depth lower than the surface of the first layer; and forming a second layer having a first part and a second part, wherein the first part is affixed to the pad to provide an electrical signal to the line and the second part is affixed to a bottom surface of the opening defined in the first layer to enhance adhesion between the first and second layers.

None of the cited references teaches or suggests each and every element of the claims.

In the present invention, the first layer includes gate insulating layer 117; which exposes the pad 115 and defines opening 193. The second layer includes first and second parts, metal layer 213 and passivation layer 137, respectively. The third layer includes gate pad terminal 157.

In contrast, Terasaka et al. does not disclose at least one opening near a pad. Figure 2 and columns 1 and 2 referenced by the Examiner do not teach a first layer and a second layer. Terminal 34 cannot expose the pad of each line since terminal 34 is a pad. First part 28 is not affixed to any pad or terminal 34 and second part 20 is not affixed to the bottom surface of the opening because there is no opening.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) be withdrawn. Moreover, claims 13-20 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 12, which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7371.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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